

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10588 171843Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CA-01 L-03 H-01 HA-05  
/027 W

-----129557 171851Z /47

O 171801Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4966  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10588

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CARR, IS  
SUBJECT: W/W ARREST: SMAI ESMail

1. CONSUL KERR AND CONASST WEISS VISITED SAMI AT DIMONA PRISON AUGUST 17. UPON ARRIVAL THEY LEARNED THAT SAMI WAS SERVING A SEVEN DAY SOLITARY PUNISHMENT SENTENCE FOR REFUSING PRISON WORK WHICH HE STATED DIRECTLY BENEFITED THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND FOR INCITING OTHER PRISONERS TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT COMMENCED SUNDAY AUGUST 13.

2. SAMI, DURING INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF STATED HE REFUSED ON PRINCIPLE TO WORK FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY AS THE PRODUCT OF HIS LABOR IS USED BY THE ISRAELI POLICE AND ARMY. SAMI'S WORK ASSIGNMENT IS IN THE PRISON'S BOOK BINDING SHOP. ACCORDING TO PRISON AUTHORITIES, APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF OF THE INMATES, BOTH JEWS AND ARABS, ARE EMPLOYED IN THE BOOKBINDING SHIP. RECIPIENTS OF THE PRODUCT INCLUDE POLICE AND MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE FIRMS. ALL PRISONERS ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM LABOR FROM 7:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

3. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO SAMI THAT HIS REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH PRISON WORK REQUIREMENTS AND THE MORE SEVERE CHARGE OF INCITING OTHER PRISONERS TO REFUSE TO WORK WOULD UNDOUBTLY SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE HIS CHANCES FOR EARLY RELEASE. SAMI  
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STATED HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN AN EARLY RELEASE. FOR GOOD CONDUCT AND PREFERS TO SERVE HIS FULL TERM RATHER THAN CONTINUE IN WORK BENEFITING ISRAEL OR THE ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRISON COMMANDANT, SHALOM ROSOLIO, THE COMMANDANT STATED HE HAD MET WITH SAMI TWO DAYS BEFORE HIS REFUSAL TO WORK. SAMI HAD ASKED TO BE FREED FROM WORK

DURING THE MORNINGS TO PERMIT HIM TO STUDY AND HAD OFFERED TO CONDUCT CLASSES IN ENGLISH IN THE AFTERNOONS. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF HIS OBJECTION ON PRINCIPLE TO WORKING IN THE BOOKBINDING SHOP ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDANT, HAD SAMI MENTIONED HIS OBJECTIONS TO WORKING IN BOOK BINDING, ANOTHER AREA OF WORK COULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. THE COMMANDANT BELIEVES SAMI PURPOSELY REGISTERED HIS OBJECTION IN PUBLIC IN ORDER TO INCITE OTHER PRISONERS.

5. THE COMMANDANT IS CONCERNED THAT THE ISSUE WHICH SAMI HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE PUBLIC MUST BE MET HEAD ON AS FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD ENCOURAGE LIKE ACTION ON THE PART OF OTHER PRISONERS. HE INTENDS TO RELEASE SAMI AT THE END OF HIS SEVEN DAY SENTENCE AND GIVE HIM THREE DAYS TO RECONSIDER HIS REFUSAL TO WORK. IF THEREAFTER HE CONTINUES TO REFUSE, ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

6. CONOFF HAD BROUGHT AN APPLICATION FOR MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. THE APPLICATION WAS FORWARDED BY DR. BARR FROM MICHIGAN STATE WITH THE REQUEST FOR SAMI'S SIGNATURE. APPROVED LATE REGISTRATION WAS TO BE USED AT THE EARLY RELEASE HEARING IN OCTOBER. SAMI REFUSED TO SIGN AS HE STATES HE HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO MICHIGAN STATE BEFORE FEBRUARY 1979 EVEN IF RELEASED IN MID OCTOBER.

7. CONSUL ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO PERSUADE SAMI  
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TO RECONSIDER HIS ACTIONS, WHICH CAN ONLY ADVERSELY AFFECT HIS CHANCES FOR EARLY RELEASE  
AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH HE WILL SERVE OUT HIS TERM.  
LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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